

Application No. 09/982052
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2A-8920-US01

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2004. Each issue is discussed in detail below.

Objections

The disclosure was objected to because of the following informalities: On page 9, line 11, "1 and 2" should be "7 and 8".

Applicant disagrees with the suggested amendment because it would not accurately portray what is actually being described. The claim is, however, being amended to further clarify the description.

§112 Rejections

Claims 2, 3, 7-9, 11, 17 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, Applicant has amended the claims to address the specific concerns in the rejection, as described in the official action on pages 2-3.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 6-11 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Ryan (EPO 0442657). The full rejection is located on pages 3-4 of the official action.

Although Applicant disagrees, the claims have been amended, as shown above, to further distinguish the claimed invention from the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

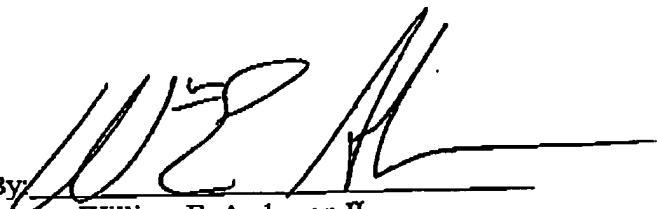
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The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. If any further issues arise, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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